

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:BDT

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

L/C:THUANG(PHONE)

EB/TRP:FWANNING(PHONE)

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R 052343Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069922

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EDIS, EAGR, BL

SUBJECT:BOLIVIA SUGAR QUOTA

REF: STATE 62797

1. COUNTRY DIRECTOR KARKASHIAN RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR VALENCIA ON APRIL 4 DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT BOLIVIA'S INTEREST IN SUGAR QUOTA, REFTTEL, COULD BE PREJUDICED BY ADVERSE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION STEMMING FROM LONG-STANDING APPLGATE/YOUNGQUIST CLAIM. KARKASHIAN NOTED IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION TO REVIEW RESPECTIVE MERITS OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY BOTH PARTIES, BUT RATHER TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON REAL ISSUE AT STAKE -- BOLIVIA'S SUGAR QUOTA.

2. VALENCIA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN WHICH HE SAID HE FULLY SHARED. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT WHILE CLAIMANTS HAD NOT ACTED EXPEDITIOUSLY OR PRUDENTLY IN ALL INSTANCES, THEY NEVERTHELESS HAD VALID CLAIM AND THE RIGHT TO PURSUE IT. HE POINTEDLY REFERRED TO "UNACCEPTABLE" ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY CLAIMANTS' ATTORNEY MORAN IN PREVIOUS CALL AT HIS EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE CLAIM. VALENCIA SAID THAT NOTWITHSTANDING SUCH IMPROPRIETIES BY MORAN, HE HOPED TO PERSUADE MINISTER OF ECONOMY TO
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AUTHORIZE HIM TO PURSUE POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

HERE IN WASHINGTON. HE NOTED THAT MINISTER'S MOST RECENT LETTER ON THIS SUBJEC HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL AND THAT BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE, GOING BACK TO HIS SERVICE AS

ECONOMY MINISTER DURING BARRIENTOS PERIOD, THERE IS A VALID BASIS FOR THE CLAIM. HE SAID THE GOB SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO SETTLE THE CLAIM AND VOLUNTEERED TO RENEW HIS REQUEST TO OPEN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CLAIMANTS' ATTORNEY IN WASHINGTON. VALENCIA ALSO UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER DESIRABILITY OF RETAINING PRESTIGIOUS U.S. ATTORNEY, IN ADDITION TO SUGAR LOBBYIST WATERS, AS A MEANS OF DEALING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH CLAIMANTS' ATTORNEY MORAN AND INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, SUGAR, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LAND NATIONALIZATION, TRADE COMPLAINTS, NEGOTIATIONS, IMPORT QUOTAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE069922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEKARKASHIAN:BDT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740078-1067
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740461/aaaaceau.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 62797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OLIVIA SUGAR QUOTA
TAGS: BDIS, EAGR, ETRD, BL, US, (MORAN, J ANTHONY), (APPLEGATE), (YOUNGQUIST)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005